



Police Jury Association of Louisiana, Inc.

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January 22, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Gentlemen:

I wanted to take a moment to write and express my thoughts on the proposed merger between Echostar and Hughes Electronics. I think this new combined satellite company could bring some exciting benefits to Louisiana, especially in the rural area. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has for many years endorsed the concept of expanding all forms of digital service to rural America.


Overcoming the so-called "digital divide" that exists between urban and rural residents is many times one of the biggest hurdles in economic development in the rural areas. This combined company should be able to provide high-speed satellite Internet and broadband service to rural America that are not currently available.

I know you will give this matter thoughtful consideration and please let us know if we can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

**POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION
OF LOUISIANA, INC.**

BY:


Roland J. Dartez
Executive Director

RJD:cwr

OFFICERS:

Walter Savage
President

Roland J. Dartez
Executive Secretary

William J. Doran, Jr.
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